

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING**www.dfeh.ca.gov****DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ANNOUNCES
IN-PERSON COMPLAINT FILING PROGRAM IN VENTURA****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****April 30, 2007****CONTACT: Janie Hickok Siess****(916) 478-7263**

ELK GROVE -- The Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), the state's civil rights enforcement agency, announced today that it is now scheduling in-person intake appointments in Ventura. The DFEH's mission is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and from the perpetration of acts of hate violence.

In June 2003, as a result of budget reductions, the DFEH was forced to close its Ventura District Office. Since that time, intake appointments for persons residing in Ventura and the surrounding communities have been conducted in the DFEH's Bakersfield or Los Angeles offices.

Effective immediately, anyone from the Ventura area interested in exploring the possibility of filing a complaint alleging that they have been subjected to unlawful employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should call the DFEH's Communication Center at (800) 884-1684. No services will be provided on a "walk-in" basis.

The Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement, situated at 1200 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 165, Camarillo, has graciously provided office space to the DFEH for the purpose of conducting intake appointments which will be scheduled on Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. beginning May 4, 2007.

"We're pleased that the DFEH has forged this partnership with the Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement," said Rosario Marin, Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency which oversees the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. "This is an example of state and local cooperation that serves as a model for others to follow."

Added DFEH Director, Suzanne Ambrose, "We are grateful for this opportunity to enhance the delivery of our services to the residents of Ventura and the surrounding area."

For more information about the work of the DFEH or the laws it enforces, including the Fair Employment and Housing, Unruh Civil Rights, and Ralph Acts, visit the DFEH's website: www.dfeh.ca.gov.

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